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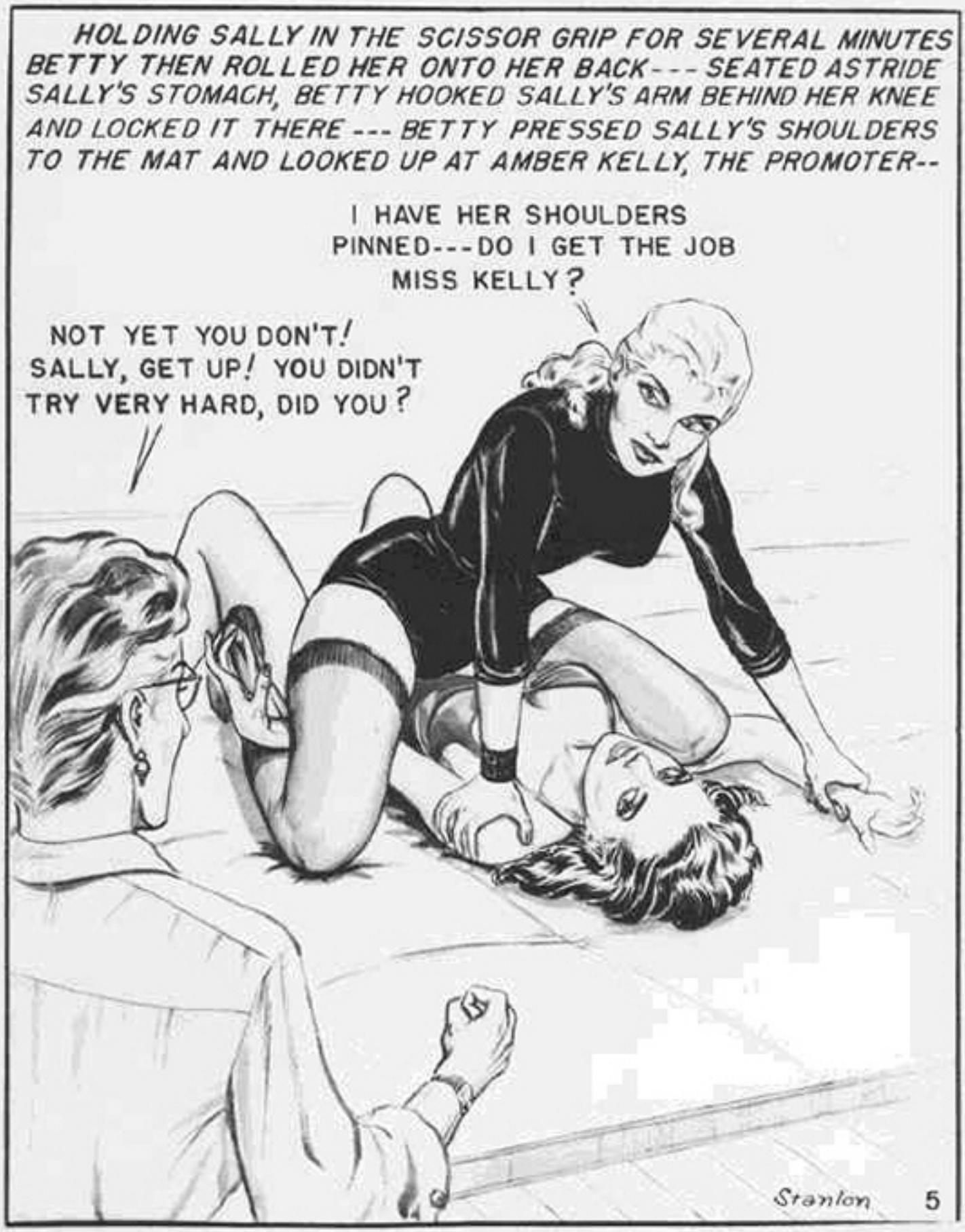

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Now that I, Betty Anders had bested a professional lady wrestler in a test tryout, I grew vain and arrogant, boasting to Amber Kelly, the promoter that I could beat any of the women wrestlers in her stable of wrestlers. This bragging got under the skin of Miss Kelly, who decided I needed taking down a peg or two and so she matched me against a rough and well seasoned professional who knew all the tricks of the game, known as Lilly, "the black panther".

Lilly, "the black panther", was slightly heavier than I, weighing 145 pounds to my 138 pounds, standing 5 feet 7 inches to my 5 feet 6 inches, and what I lacked in experience, I made up in brashness and self-confidence. My lack of experience showed up quickly when Lilly outmaneuvered me and got a back breaking double leg hold that virtually took all my strength away, leaving me stunned and gasping for breath in this "Boston Crab" hold.

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Then I finally managed to wriggled out of the "Boston Crab" hold of Lilly, and tried to reach the ropes so I could get a few precious seconds of rest, Lilly gave me no quarter by pounding on my back as it was turned and then got a crippling waist-scissor hold on myself. Then Lilly applied a "Full Nelson" on my neck which is a most difficult hold to break and weakened me considerably.

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But the worst was yet to come for me, for Amber Kelly, the promoter, had given special instructions to Lilly to rough me up as much as possible, to see if I had the stomach and heart to assimilate all the punishment lady wrestlers have to take in their profession. When the referee's attention was distracted, Lilly got in a few illegal blows on my chin while I was unable to avoid them. Instead of hitting with the open palms, she punched me with her clenched fist.

When the crowds' roars turned the referee's attention to Lilly's dirty work, she gestured she was using an open legal fist and was doing no wrong. I was irritated and hurt by those illegal blows and surreptitious choke holds Lilly sneaked in now and then when the referee wasn't looking. I was still too honorable and new in the business to do some fouling myself to Lilly, by pulling her hair to make her break her hold on me.

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Lilly's dirty fouling work was beginning to take its toll on me and I could feel my strength ebbing fast.

While I was still gasping, trying to recover from a vicious choke hold the referee either didn't see or ignored, because he thought this was just part of the sport, since every wrestler always complained about illegal holds, Lilly flipped me over on my back and started to pin my shoulders down to the mat.

I tried to avoid the body press I knew was coming next, but my aching body was not up to it and slowly, Lilly pinned one shoulder down, as I shifted my body to try and keep Lilly from pinning both shoulders down, Lilly abruptly came down fast with all her weight hard on my stomach. This, was the last straw and being unable to move a muscle, it was now child's play for Lilly to pin me down, thus winning the match.